THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Govt. have invited bids from experienced international companies for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in 27 offshore blocks in 6 basins as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Basin	No of Blocks Offered
1	Saurastra offshore	1
2	Konkan Kerala Offshore	8
3	Cauvery Offshore	5
4	Palar offshore	2
5	Krishna Godavari offshore	7
6.	Mahanadi offshore	4
		27

These bids have been invited in order to:

(i) Supplement the exploration efforts of the national oil companies, namely ONGC/OIL.

(ii) Attract foreign risk capital.

(iii) Seek application of the latest technology available with these companies.

Retention and pool pricing system

2598. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of retention and pool pricing system adopted for utilisation of the Drug Prices Equalisation Account under the Drugs Price Control Order, 1979, is being done away with under the new measures announced in December, 1986;

(b) if so, for what other purpose the said funds comprising unintended profits earned by multinational and other firms which would accrue to the DPEA in future would be utilised; and

(c) how the unintended profits would henceforth be utilised or channelised for the benefit of the consumer and the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The amounts which have already accrued to the DPEA and those which are likely to accrue as a result of action in the past, will be used for the purpose stipulated in the existing DPCO, 1979. This has been specified in the new measures.

Prices of Doxycycline

2599. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of Doxycycline was revised a number of times during 1981 to 1986, if so, what was the price in 1981 and what were subsequent revisions alongwith date of each revision;

(b) whether the stocks were verified before increasnig the price each time and if so the stocks available on each occasion and whether the unintended profits were recovered; if so the amount collected and if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that price increase was allowed without the recommendation of BICP, if so, the reasons therefor; and